

### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 1-4, 10-14 and 21-30 are amended. No new matter is introduced.<sup>1</sup>

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 11, 22, 27 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101; Claims 1-13 and 15-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meenan (U.S. Patent No. 7,313,384) in view of Kathail (U.S. Patent No. 6,704,752) and Hind (U.S. Patent No. 6,772,331); Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meenan, Kathail and Hind in further view of Kameda (U.S. Patent No. 5,940,772); Claims 23-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meenan, Kathail and Hind in further view of Nassimi (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0203357); and Claims 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meenan, Kathail and Nassimi.

Initially, Applicant's gratefully acknowledge the courtesy of Examiner Tran in holding a telephone interview with Applicant's representative on December 29, 2010. During the interview the outstanding issues in this case were discussed, as summarized below and in the Interview Summary, which the Examiner has made of record. No agreement was reached pending further search and consideration.

Claims 11, 22, 27 and 30 are amended hereby to recite "non-transitory" computer readable media. Applicants note that this amendment is made in order to comply with current Office formalities and to emphasize that the computer readable media is not a signal. Therefore, these amendments pertain to the physical medium itself rather than data

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<sup>1</sup> Non-limiting support for the amended claims may be found at least in Fig. 2 and the associated discussion on pages 55-57 of the specification as originally filed.

persistence (i.e., ROM v. RAM, etc.). Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 11, 22, 27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

Turning to the rejection of Claims 1-13 and 15-22 as being unpatentable over Meenan in view of Kathail and Hind, Claim 1 is amended to recite, *inter alia*, an information communication system that includes:

a network including at least three information communication apparatuses, at least two of the information communication apparatuses communicating wirelessly through the network during normal operation, at least one of the information communication apparatuses communicating through the network via a wired connection to another of the information communication apparatuses;

a first information communication apparatus of the at least three information communication apparatuses storing predetermined communication information for communication through said network wirelessly, the first information communication apparatus including an input device configured to receive an external mechanical input;

a second information communication apparatus of the at least two information communication apparatuses *connected to the first information communication apparatus by a wire circuit separate from the network*, the second information communication apparatus including an input device configured to receive an external mechanical input...(Emphasis added.)

Thus, Claim 1 defines that the second information communication apparatus is connected to the first communication apparatus by a wire circuit that is separate from the network in order to transfer the communication information thereto. It is believed that no reference cited discloses or suggests these features.

The primary reference, Meenan, describes configuring a home-networking system using a host system to store reconfiguration information.<sup>2</sup> In this regard, Meenan describes that the home networking system (100) includes a home-networking gateway (115) connected to a wireless access point (112h) to communicate with, for example, laptop

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<sup>2</sup> Meenan at column 2, lines 33-48.

computer (112f) and PDA (112g).<sup>3</sup> Meenan describes that the home-networking gateway (115) is also connected to a host system (120), such as an Internet access provider, by a communication device (119) to provide network access to the devices (112).<sup>4</sup> To avoid manual entry of configuration information, Meenan describes that the host system (120) provides configuration information (124) to the home-networking gateway (115).<sup>5</sup>

However, Meenan does not describe that the home-networking gateway (115) is connected to the host system (120) through the communication device (119) to provide network access, and through a separate connection other than the communication device (119) to receive the configuration information (124). Instead, Meenan describes the communication device (119) as the only connection between the host system (120) and the home-networking gateway (115).<sup>6</sup> In other words, the home-networking gateway (115) in Meenan could only receive both the configuration information (124) and regular network traffic through the same connection. Conversely, amended Claim 1 recites at least two information communication apparatuses interconnected via a network and that a second of the at least two information communication apparatuses is connected to a first information communication apparatus via a wire circuit *separate from the network*. Therefore, Meenan fails to disclose the claimed wire circuit, and neither Kathail nor Hind cure this deficiency. Accordingly, no combination of Meenan, Kathail and Hind describe every feature recited in amended Claim 1, and amended Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, together with its corresponding dependent claims.

Moreover, amended Claims 2-3, 10-12, 21-22 recite features substantially similar to those recited in amended Claim 1, and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance, together with any claim depending therefrom, for substantially similar reasons. Accordingly,

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<sup>3</sup> Meenan at column 3, lines 28-34; column 5, lines 6-19; and also Figure 1.

<sup>4</sup> Meenan at column 3, lines 3-26; column 4, lines 33-47.

<sup>5</sup> Meenan at column 6, lines 65 - column 7, line 2; column 8, lines 8-16.

<sup>6</sup> Meenan at column 4, lines 48-52.

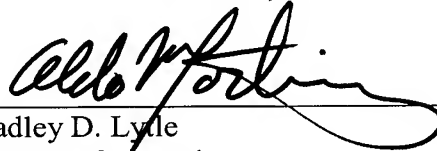
it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1-13 and 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

As all other rejections of record rely upon Meenan for describing the above-distinguished feature, and the above-distinguished feature is not disclosed or suggested by Meenan, alone or in combination with any other art of record, it is respectfully submitted that *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 14 and 23-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-30 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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